

**STUDENT LEARNING  
ASSESSMENT MODEL  
2010-2011**



# Student Learning Assessment Model



**Student Learning Assessment Committee**

**2010-2011**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE**

Mesalands Community College was established as Tucumcari Area Vocational School (TAVS) under the Area Vocational School Act of New Mexico during the thirty-third Legislative Session of the State of New Mexico. In January 1979, an act of the Legislature authorized the establishment of an area vocational school in Tucumcari (Statutory Authority: Sections 21-17-1 through 21-17-17 NMSA 1978). The school was authorized to offer programs of vocational education leading to certificates and diplomas.

In November 1993, the institution was authorized by the New Mexico Commission on Higher Education to offer Associate of Applied Science degrees in Business Administration and Computer Information Systems.

In June 1994, the Commission on Higher Education authorized the College to offer the Associate of Applied Science degree for each of its technical/vocational programs. The degree programs were implemented in the fall semester of 1994.

In 1994, the Board of Trustees authorized Tucumcari Area Vocational School to begin doing business as Mesa Technical College in order to more accurately represent the institution to its varied constituents as a small community college.

In the fall semester of 1995, Mesa Technical College implemented a pre-collegiate studies program and expanded its course offerings in general education. In the spring semester 1996, the College began expanding its offerings via distance learning, including the Electronic Distance Education Network (EDEN), a cooperative effort of the universities of New Mexico, PBS and the Internet.

Also during spring semester 1996 the College developed programs in paleontology and geology. Mesalands Dinosaur Museum and Natural Science Laboratories were planned, based on a partnership that developed between the College and the community in recognizing, owning and promoting this region's rich heritage as one of the premier deposits of fossilized ancient life. The community continues to donate considerable time, energy and resources to the Museum for cataloging specimens and providing sites for further exploration. An outgrowth of planning for separate funding of the Museum resulted in the establishment of Mesa Technical College Foundation, Inc., for charitable, scientific, and educational purposes.

On July 1, 1996, Mesa Technical College came under the direction of a new president, Dr. Phillip Barry, who instituted a concerted effort in strategic planning – a prerequisite to addressing institutional challenges and implementing effective change. The College's new direction has manifested itself in significant changes, including the implementation of student learning assessment, institutional effectiveness, and curriculum development. The institution's mission and goals were reviewed and revised, appropriate to the new effort toward community college status.

The President also launched an intensive effort to earn accreditation from The Commission on Institutes of Higher Education of the North Central Association (NCA) of Colleges and Schools. Administration, faculty and staff set forth on a fast track to compress the two-year process normally needed to earn a site visit from NCA into a period of less than a year. In August 1997, these efforts were rewarded when NCA granted Mesa Technical College candidacy for accreditation. In August of 1999, Mesa was granted the status of initial accreditation by NCA, at which time the state allowed the College to begin offering the Associate of Arts degree. In September 2004, the College was granted 10 years of accreditation.

In the fall of 1998, the College launched a new inter-collegiate rodeo program in response to the desires of its students and the locale in which the College is situated. The success of this program led to the establishment of a livestock judging team in 2001.

With the College continuing to grow and mature, the College's name was changed to more adequately reflect its mission. On September 11, 2001, the Board of Trustees renamed the institution Mesalands Community College.

Mesalands Community College offers, as of September 2009, the Associate of Arts Degree with options in Business Administration, Education, Fine Arts/Bronze, Human Services, Liberal Arts, Natural Sciences, Physical Science and Pre-medical Arts. Also offered is the Associate of Applied Science Degree in Agri-Business, Animal Science, Automotive Technology, Business Administration, Business Office Technology, Computer Science, Diesel Technology, Farrier Science, Wind Energy Technology, and Public Administration. Several of these degree programs have options and many of the programs offer certificates.

The College has a broad range of academic and technical programs including four distinctive ones, Farrier Science, Fine Arts/Bronze, Natural Sciences, and the newest, Wind Energy Technology, that have attracted students from several states as well as foreign countries (i.e., Australia, Canada, Germany, and Israel).

During the fall 2009 semester, Mesalands Community College saw a student enrollment of 991 (592 FTE), with a student population of 48% female, and an



ethnic representation of 35% Hispanic, 3% Native American and, 2% African American. Mesalands is the only college within a 90 mile radius, providing opportunity for upward mobility through higher education to an area population of which only 1.8% currently hold an Associate's degree and 5.8% hold a Bachelor's degree or higher. Mesalands Community College, located in Tucumcari, New Mexico, is a small, public, two-year, rural community college serving approximately 6,000 residents, 51% of whom are of Hispanic origin.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

*Mesalands Community College is an institution of higher education that **promotes student learning** through quality education and services while fostering personal growth, leadership, and opportunity to a culturally diverse community.*

## **GOALS**

*The Goals of Mesalands Community College are to provide:*

- ***An environment where learning is appreciated, encouraged, and assessed.***
- *Academic and technical programs for qualified individuals to enhance their lifelong educational opportunities with an emphasis in a general core base of knowledge.*
- *Accessible, multifaceted services to qualified participants*
- *Opportunities to develop leadership skills and achieve personal growth by valuing academic and social responsibility.*
- *Quality community service programs responding to the diverse needs of the region.*

# **FOUNDATIONS AND EVOLUTION OF ASSESSMENT INITIATIVE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

As explicitly stated in its Mission and its first goal, Mesalands Community College is committed to student learning. The institution realizes that excellence in learning can only be accomplished by vigorous assessment of student academic achievement that serves to improve learning, teaching, strategic planning, and institutional effectiveness.

The Board of Trustees, administration, and faculty of Mesalands Community College are committed to excellence in learning, teaching, and their professional enhancement through the initiation of a comprehensive assessment plan. This plan is focused, practical, user-friendly, issues-oriented, and integral to the fabric of the College.

The diverse perceived benefits of an implemented assessment plan include:

- Enhancement of learning
- Enhancement of teaching
- Improvement of strategic planning
- Demonstration of institutional effectiveness to funding agencies
- Promotion of effective/efficient resource allocation

The College is committed to three basic tenets:

1. Assessment should start small and build incrementally on small successes.
2. Assessment should be cost effective and linked to budget planning.
3. Assessment processes should be routinely reviewed, improved, and re-reviewed.

## **DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE**

Assessment is seen by the College as a means of achieving institutional revitalization rather than an end in itself. Although there were diverse methods of assessment in place and in operation at Mesalands Community College, there was a perceived and obvious institutional need for an integrated approach and an overall plan for assessment. Therefore, in August of 1996, a Student Learning Assessment Committee was formed and charged with researching, developing, and implementing a comprehensive plan for the assessment of

student academic achievement. After significant interaction with the faculty and other members of the College community, and research and analysis of current literature, the committee produced a *Developmental Plan for Student Outcomes Assessment Model* in January 1997 and, subsequently, a *Student Outcomes Assessment Model* in October 1997. Since that time, the Assessment Committee has overseen the implementation of the *Model* and acted as a conduit for College feedback into the assessment process. In 2000, the *Model* was renamed the *Student Learning Assessment Model* to emphasize the fact that assessment was concerned with the whole learning experience and not just with outcomes. At this same time the Assessment Committee was renamed the Student Learning Assessment Committee to maintain continuity.

## CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The Student Learning Assessment Committee initially considered several options for an overall conceptual model for the assessment of student academic achievement. After extensive research, the committee decided to recommend the usage of the Input-Environment-Outcome (I-E-O) Model as expounded by Alexander Astin in his book, *Assessment for Excellence* (1991), which is available in the Assessment Reserve Collection in the College Library.

This model emphasized the necessity of consideration of what the student brings to the course/program/institution, the environment of learning within the course/program/institution, and student outcomes. These three elements are interdependent, and assessment of student academic achievement cannot be worthwhile without consideration of all three. The current plan involves a broad range of assessment measures, both direct and indirect, that are utilized at the classroom, program, and institutional level and at all stages of the student's academic progress.

During the fall 2009 semester, the Student Learning Assessment Committee began implementation of the Plan→Do→Study→Adjust Cycle of Assessment in an attempt to improve the continuity of assessment from academic year to academic year. It is critical that faculty members at Mesalands Community College meaningfully capture and document what they are teaching, what students are actually learning, and how this information is improving the teaching-learning relationship year after year.

The Plan→Do→Study→Adjust Cycle of Assessment process is comprised of four sequential steps and is as follows:

- 1) Plan
- 2) Do
- 3) Study
- 4) Adjust

## Plan

The first (and most critical) step in assessing student learning is to identify the three to five most important knowledge, skills and professional dispositions a student should know/demonstrate once they complete the academic and/or occupational program of study.

- Knowledge refers to what cognitive “book smarts” a student should possess.
- Skills refer to the students’ psychomotor abilities necessary to perform the required job duties. Skills refer to the students’ ability to physically manipulate some type of tool or instrument.
- Professional dispositions (i.e., behaviors and/or attitudes) deal with those soft skills required to be an employable worker.

Once it is determined what the students should learn, the instructor must articulate these three to five knowledge, skills and professional dispositions as program objectives. Program objectives tell our customers (students, parents, employers and other stakeholders) the three to five major things a student will be able to do and know upon graduation. Not only are program objectives our “contract” with the stakeholders, they also drive what is taught in the classroom and how it is taught.

After identifying and documenting the program objectives, course objectives and courses are developed that support accomplishment of these program objectives. If a course or course objective does not support the learning outcomes identified in the three to five program objectives, consideration must be made as to whether or not that course or course objective should be part of the curriculum. It is critical that program objectives be well thought out since all aspects of the learning environment are based on these objectives. Every course objective stated in the program syllabi should support one or more of the program objectives.

Individual course lesson plans are then developed. Individual course lesson plans focus on addressing the stated course objectives. The stated course objectives support one or more of the program objectives. Initially, this portion of the “Plan” stage is the most time consuming portion of the Plan→Do→Study→Adjust Cycle of Student Learning Assessment.

The next focus of the “Plan” stage should be to construct various measurement tools (written tests and exams, practical tests and exams, papers, surveys, etc.) that will accurately and fairly assess whether or not students are accomplishing the stated course and program objectives. It is a common mistake in education to use only one test to measure whether or not students “know” the material. **Triangulation** refers to the use of three (3) different evaluation tools to determine whether or not a single program objective has been met. Having at least three different measures to assess the degree of achievement of a single program

objective is much more valid and reliable than using only one or two measures. Although measurement tools need to be fair, they also need to be discriminatory as to differentiate these students who are meeting the course and program objectives versus those who are not.

In summary, during the “Plan” portion of the Plan→Do→Study→Adjust Cycle:

- Document expected student learning outcomes (program objectives) based on input from shareholders.
- Align curriculum (course objectives and course lesson plans (including textbooks, homework assignments, tests and exams, teaching strategies, field trips, guest speakers, etc.)) with expected learning outcomes (program objectives).

## **Do**

The “Do” portion is the implementation portion of the Plan→Do→Study→Adjust Cycle. This is where the “rubber meets the road.” In short, this is where the teaching, learning and evaluation of learning occur based on the course and program objectives.

Formative and summative assessments should be frequently occurring in the form of written tests and exams, practical tests and exams, papers, surveys, focus groups, classroom assessment techniques (CATs), etc. Formative assessments occur before and during the teaching/learning process while summative assessments occur at the end of the semester. Determine and implement measurement tools to verify what students have actually learned. A conscious effort needs to be made to determine how specific measurement tools assess certain course and program objectives so that the instructor can exactly pinpoint where students are meeting expectations and where improvements need to be made.

## **Study**

The “Study” portion of the Plan→Do→Study→Adjust Cycle involves formally evaluating whether or not the course and program objectives have been accomplished to the level of the stated criterion. This is when the instructor identifies strengths and weaknesses in the individual courses as they pertain to how well the learning that is occurring in the courses is supporting the accomplishment of the program objectives. Sometimes an instructor will identify that a program objective was not accomplished to the satisfaction of the stated criterion based on the formative and/or summative assessment data. The instructor can then work backwards and identify what individual course or courses (and associated course objectives) may have contributed to the “problem” or assessment deficit. Although the instructor may consider this a “problem” that certain program and course objectives were not met, this also

allows the instructor the opportunity to address the learning deficit and make adjustment(s) in future semesters to rectify the situation. Langford (1995) labeled this a problemtunity. In other words, the problem or noted deficit gives the instructor the opportunity to improve future teaching/learning.

## **Adjust**

Based on the formative and summative assessment data, the instructor will make no more than two or three adjustments to the curriculum with the goal of improving student learning so as to better meet the stated program objectives. This is the instructor's opportunity to focus on what is and what is not working in the program and then make changes based on the data. Changes to an academic and/or occupation program must be data-driven. Once the instructor decides what specific changes s/he will make to improve student learning, a "Plan" on how to implement those adjustments needs to be constructed. This may entail changing lesson plans, revisiting the different measurement tools to see if they are really measuring what you think they are measuring (called validity), etc.

Once the "Plan" is in place, the instructor then implements this new plan via the "Do" portion of the cycle. Formative and summative assessment data is again collected during the learning/teaching process and studied. "Study" of this information will lead to further adjustments to the curriculum. This Plan→Do→Study→Adjust Cycle continues with the goal of continuous improvement of student academic achievement. The ability to make data-driven changes to improve student learning academic year after academic year is referred to as "closing the loop." Assessment results are continuously used to drive positive change. Adjustments made to the program based on the yearly study of data keeps the process of improving student learning a living, breathing, ongoing process.

## **COMMITMENT TO ASSESSMENT**

Assessment is embedded in the fabric of Mesalands Community College and this has been affirmed at all levels of the institution.

1. The Board of Trustees expressed its commitment by passing the following motion at their meeting of November 13, 1996:

*[Mesalands Community College] is committed to the assessment of student academic achievement through diverse methods to facilitate improvement of teaching, learning and strategic planning. We support the development, design and implementation of a comprehensive assessment plan.*

2. The President initiated the development of the assessment process and also hired a Director of Institutional Development whose responsibilities would

include assessment. This individual serves as co-chair of the Student Learning Assessment Committee and is responsible for all data gathering and data analysis.

3. The Dean of Instructional Services also has been instrumental in the evolving assessment process and is a member of the Student Learning Assessment Committee. The Dean regularly provides time during Faculty Council meetings for discussion of assessment topics.
4. The faculty have been actively involved in the development of the assessment process through joint meetings of the Student Learning Assessment Committee and the Faculty Council. One such measure of faculty support for, and interest in, assessment is the participation of faculty in regional and national workshops and conferences focused on assessment.
5. Students are introduced to the assessment process early in their college experience through new student orientation and ACS 100 Student College Success class.

### **COMMITMENT TO EVOLUTION OF THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

Mesalands Community College is committed to the premise that assessment initiatives must continually evolve for the process to flourish. Thus, the Student Learning Assessment Committee is constantly involved in a dialogue with all the constituencies of the College to stimulate feedback-driven changes. This process has led to continual incremental change, and refinement of assessment at all levels of the institution.

Examples of changes instituted in the 2000-2001 academic year included:

1. At a joint meeting on October 20, 2000, the Criterion One/Mission Committee and the Student Learning Assessment Committee proposed changing the Mission statement of the College to reflect the emphasis that the institution places on student learning. The following changes to the Mission and Goals were proposed (with changed wording in **bold**), after dialog between the President's Cabinet, Student Learning Assessment Committee, Criterion One/Mission Committee, and the Institutional Effectiveness, Research and Planning Committee:

#### *Mission Statement*

*Mesalands Community College is an institution of higher education that **promotes student learning through** quality education and services while fostering personal growth, leadership, and opportunity to a culturally diverse community.*

#### *Goals*



***[new]An environment where learning is appreciated, encouraged, and assessed.***

Subsequently, these changes were accepted by the President's Cabinet and by the Board of Trustees in November 2000.

2. The model for assessment was significantly revised in the fall of 2000 to emphasize the feedback on changes in learning as a result of assessment as opposed to the collection of numerical data on assessment. Significantly, the Student Learning Assessment Committee changed the name of the *Model* from the *Student Outcomes Assessment Model* to the *Student Learning Assessment Model*. This reflected the committee's view that the word "outcomes" suggests an undue emphasis on product as opposed to process. Since assessment is involved with all aspects of the learning experience, the Student Learning Assessment Committee agreed that the word "learning" should be substituted in the name of the model.

Examples of changes instituted in the 2001-2002 academic year included:

1. An Assessment Day was added to the fall semester.
2. The results of the CAAP tests began being tracked and distributed to student participants.

Examples of changes instituted in the 2002-2003 academic year included:

1. Development of a new reporting form for faculty to streamline the process of reporting changes made in learning and teaching as a result of assessment measures.
2. Development of institutional assessment priorities to guide the Student Learning Assessment Committee in its assessment initiatives and practices.
3. Greater emphasis placed on institutional level and program level assessment while building on a strong foundation of classroom level assessment.

Examples of changes instituted in the 2003-2004 academic year included:

1. Greater emphasis placed on student education of the assessment process and roles at the College.
2. Development of new institutional assessment priorities, goals, and objectives to guide the Student Learning Assessment Committee.

Examples of changes instituted in the 2004-2005 academic year included:

1. Development of general education goals and objectives that are used to assess prospective graduates' knowledge of general education.

The general education goals and objectives are as follows:

|  |
|--|
| <b>Communicate Effectively</b>   |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Present ideas orally according to standard usage.</li><li>2. Present ideas in writing.</li><li>3. Demonstrate application of information technology.</li></ol>  |
| <b>Reason Scientifically and Quantitatively</b>  |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>4. Demonstrate mathematical principles.</li><li>5. Demonstrate scientific reasoning.</li><li>6. Apply scientific methods to the inquiry process.</li></ol>         |
| <b>Think Critically</b>  |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>7. Read and analyze complex ideas.</li><li>8. Locate, evaluate, and apply research information.</li><li>9. Evaluate and present well-reasoned arguments.</li></ol> |

2. Faculty created rubrics used in assessing general education goals and objectives (Appendix A).

An example of change instituted in the 2005-2006 academic year included:

The Faculty Outcomes Assessment form was revised.

Examples of committee activities and changes instituted during the 2006-2007 academic year included:

1. The committee continued to mentor adjunct faculty in assessing student learning. As with previous semesters, two-person teams were established to serve as mentors. Each team selected seven to eight adjunct faculty to mentor.

2. The major activity of the committee for the fall 2006 and spring 2007 semesters was to begin the process of devising rubrics to assess the program objectives for the A.A.S. degrees and for the certificate programs. Preliminary drafts of the rubrics have been completed.

Members of the committee and other College administration and staff attended the annual New Mexico Higher Education Assessment and Retention Conference held in Albuquerque on February 22-23, 2007.

Examples of assessment committee activities instituted during the 2007-2008 academic year included:

1. The committee continued to mentor adjunct faculty in assessing student learning. As with previous semesters, two-person teams were established to serve as mentors. Each team selected seven to eight adjunct faculty to mentor.
2. Members of the committee and other College administration and staff attended the annual New Mexico Higher Education Assessment and Retention Conference held in Albuquerque on February 21-22, 2008.
3. The committee also continued to review the course objectives for new and revised classes.
4. Committee members, along with other faculty, participated in the College's Assessment Days when selected students completed the General Education Assessment (GEA) and Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency Tests (CAAP).

Examples of committee activities and changes instituted during the 2008-2009 academic year included:

1. Mesalands Community College was presented with (and accepted) the opportunity to participate in the Higher Learning Commission/North Central Accreditation's Academy for Assessment of Student Learning as a means to address present and future assessment needs. Participation in the Academy was in lieu of completion of the 07/01/09 Progress Report on Student Learning Outcomes. Mesalands Community College has made a four year commitment to develop and implement a sustainable plan to address the concerns identified by The Higher Learning Commissions' Accreditation Team. The College's Assessment Team (which has been charged with facilitating this commitment) has entitled this "Action Portfolio"/Student Learning Plan **Beyond the Basics: Reinventing Assessment at Mesalands Community College.**

2. Development of a “Student Learning Assessment and Retention” link on the College’s website. This link can be accessed by double clicking the “Academic Programs” link and then double clicking the “Assessment” link on [www.Mesalands.edu](http://www.Mesalands.edu)
3. Revised the format of the Student Learning Assessment Program Report utilizing the Plan→Do→Study→Adjust Cycle of Assessment.
4. Revisited and, when necessary, rewrote program objectives of all applied science programs.
5. Initiated a biannual faculty and staff training day devoted to all things assessment. This recurring event will be referred to as “Assessment Day” and occur during the fall and spring semesters.

**Examples of changes instituted during the 2009-2010 academic year included:**

1. Additional program directors/lead faculty were identified for the following programs:
  - a. Associate of Applied Science – General Studies
  - b. Associate of Arts – Liberal Arts General Studies
  - c. Associate of Arts – University Studies
2. All program directors/lead faculty were required to perform curriculum mapping in order to identify where program level outcomes are taught. This information is included in the individual *Student Learning Assessment Program Reports*.
3. All program directors/lead faculty were required to identify multiple measurement tools and goal results to assess whether or not program objectives were accomplished to a predetermined level. This information is included in the individual *Student Learning Assessment Program Reports*.
4. All program directors/lead faculty were required to implement a plan→do→study→adjust cycle of assessment in order to determine how well program objectives were accomplished. This information is included in the individual *Student Learning Assessment Program Reports*.
5. All program directors/lead faculty were required implement a plan→do→study→adjust cycle of assessment in order to determine general education competencies attainment. This information is included in the individual *Student Learning Assessment Program Reports*.
6. All program directors/lead faculty were required to document their program assessment activities via a *Student Learning Assessment Program Report* as

well as begin establishing assessment processes that are continuous and provide meaningful and useful information.

7. Development and distribution of the *Required Steps to Complete Assessment Responsibilities* document for all adjunct faculty.
8. The following general education competencies were rewritten and rubrics were developed:
  - a. Writing
  - b. Oral Presentation
  - c. Information Technology
9. Developed reporting rubric to collect data on attainment of general education competencies:
  - a. Writing
  - b. Oral Presentation
10. Implemented the “Writing Across the Curriculum” initiative which required all faculty (across all College educational sites and delivery methods) to assess the writing general education competency utilizing College rubric.
11. Assessment plan for off-site learning was developed, submitted and initially approved by the Higher Learning Commission as part of the “Institutional Request for Change 2010” application.



# **A COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT PLAN FOR MESALANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

## **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

### **Responsibility**

The assessment process at Mesalands Community College is supervised and administered by the Student Learning Assessment Committee. However, the individual ultimately responsible for the process is the Dean of Instructional Services, who is the Chief Academic Officer of the College. The Dean is a member of the Student Learning Assessment Committee and of the President's Cabinet.

## **STUDENT LEARNING ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE**

### **Committee Structure**

The Student Learning Assessment Committee exists as a standing committee of the College. The committee is charged with planning for, and overseeing the implementation of, institution-wide assessment of student academic achievement.

The committee is composed of 10 members including the Dean of Instructional Services, four full-time faculty, two adjunct faculty/professional staff, two student members and a non-voting secretary. The committee meets once a month and as needed. Its meetings are open to the College community and minutes are prepared, approved, and made available to interested parties. Members of the College community are encouraged to attend meetings.

### **Committee Purpose**

The committee is charged with entering into an ongoing dialog with the College community about the assessment of student academic achievement. As a result of this dialog, the committee designs a plan for the assessment of student academic achievement at the institution and oversees the implementation and continuous re-evaluation of this plan.

## Committee Objectives

*The Student Learning Assessment Committee has four explicit objectives that are stated in this Student Learning Assessment Model. The objectives of the Student Learning Assessment Committee are to:*

- Objective 1 Enhance the knowledge of the faculty at Mesalands Community College about the assessment of student learning by conducting meetings and workshops, distributing materials, and by providing resources (e.g., Assessment Reserve Collection in the Library). One issue of *Assessment News* will be published each fall and spring semester and all faculty will receive a copy of *Faculty Assessment Notes* by the first week of classes. The Student Learning Assessment Committee will have at least one joint meeting with the Faculty Council every semester.
- Objective 2 Spearhead the development of assessment at the College by producing, if needed, by November 30 each year, a revised *Model*.
- Objective 3 Facilitate and implement the development of feedback loops and information dissemination about assessment at the College by:
- a. producing an annual report by September 15 of each year
  - b. producing two issues of *Assessment News* each academic year
  - c. providing all faculty with copies of *Faculty Assessment Notes* each academic year
  - d. having at least one joint meeting with the Faculty Council every fall and spring semester
  - e. providing all adjunct and new faculty with assessment-related training and an assessment mentor
  - f. presenting information on assessment at every new student orientation and at each section of ACS 100 Student College Success, including delivery of the brochure *Student Guide to Educational Assessment*
  - g. conducting a biannual Assessment Day to be held every fall and spring semester. The biannual Assessment Day is a joint meeting between the committee and all full-time faculty used to discuss, update, and refine the assessment practices at the College.



Objective 4: Oversee the implementation of the *Student Learning Assessment Model* so that faculty and staff will provide all the documents and reports specified in the *Model* within one week of the stated deadline.

**INSTITUTIONAL FOCUS ON  
STUDENT LEARNING ASSESSMENT  
2010-2011**

As stated previously, Mesalands Community College was presented with (and accepted) the opportunity to participate in the Higher Learning Commission/North Central Accreditation’s Academy for Assessment of Student Learning as a means to address present and future assessment needs. Participation in the Academy was in lieu of completion of the 07/01/09 Progress Report on Student Learning Outcomes. Mesalands Community College has made a four-year commitment to develop and implement a sustainable plan to address the concerns identified by The Higher Learning Commission’s Accreditation Team. The College’s Student Learning Assessment Committee (which is now charged with facilitating this commitment) has entitled this “Action Portfolio”/Student Learning Plan **Beyond the Basics: Reinventing Assessment at Mesalands Community College.**

| Priorities   | Goals   | Objectives  | Responsible Individual(s)  |
|--|---|---|--|
| Continue assessment-related changes based on the Higher Learning Commission’s Academy for Assessment of Student Learning Action Portfolio/Student Learning Plan <b>Beyond the Basics: Reinventing Assessment at Mesalands Community College.</b> | Complete “Year Three” (2010-2011) of the Higher Learning Commission’s Academy for Assessment of Student Learning. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Evaluate course syllabi format and change if necessary.</li> <li>2. Re-evaluate and modify end-of-semester faculty assessment form.</li> <li>3. Develop a capstone portfolio course.</li> <li>4. Lead instructors teaching courses related to general education competencies will be asked to meet and revisit those competencies and related rubrics. The goal is to revisit each of the three general education competencies (communication, quantitative and scientific reasoning, and critical thinking) over the course of the next three years</li> </ol> | Curriculum Coordinating Committee.<br><br>Student Learning Assessment Committee and Dean of Instructional Services.<br><br>Student Learning Assessment Committee, English faculty, and Dean of Instructional Services.<br><br>Student Learning Assessment Committee, Dean of Instructional Services and Lead Instructors and Coordinator of Institutional Computing. |

| Priorities | Goals | Objectives   | Responsible Individual(s)  |
|------------|-------|--|--|
|            |       | <p>as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical Thinking (2010-2011)</li> <li>• Quantitative and Scientific Reasoning (2011-2012)</li> </ul> <p>Once rubrics are developed, embedded assessment utilizing the rubrics will be implemented during that same academic cycle in order to measure general education competency attainment. Finalized competencies and rubrics will be posted in both in the Catalog and the "Learning Assessment and Retention" link of the Mesalands Community College web site.</p> <p>5. Establish imbedded assessment to evaluate the quality and quantity of learning wherever and however courses are taught.</p> | <p>Student Learning Assessment Committee and Lead Instructors.</p> |

## DATA COLLECTION AND INTERPRETATION

The Student Learning Assessment Committee (SLAC) is responsible for collecting and disseminating information about assessment. SLAC realizes that program directors, lead instructors and faculty are the experts when it comes to evaluating assessment results and making adjustments to the curriculum based on those results. To that end, SLAC only assists in the interpretation of assessment data. Program directors and lead instructors are charged with implementing the PDSA cycle of assessment. As previously stated, this includes interpreting the data and making changes to the curriculum based on that data. Program directors and lead instructors create an annual Student Learning Assessment Report similar to that presented in Appendix B. The Student Learning Assessment Report format can and should be modified to better suit the needs of the different programs.

Data are provided by individual faculty at the course level on a standard form (Appendix C). The form is available to faculty electronically so that each faculty member will be able to efficiently submit the form for each class that is being assessed. These forms report activities of student learning assessment completed by faculty in courses.

Additional information on student learning assessment is provided by the Director of Institutional Development, Coordinator of Institutional and Enrollment Data, Director of the Educational Services Center, and by ACT.

## DATA DISSEMINATION

The Student Learning Assessment Committee has nine regular avenues for disseminating information:

1. The Student Learning Assessment Committee produces a newsletter (*Assessment News*) that is distributed to all College employees, posted on the Student Activities Board, and posted on the Student Learning Assessment and Retention link of the College web site. This newsletter provides information about assessment measures at the College and short articles addressing principles and practices of assessment.
2. Every September the committee produces an annual report on assessment from the previous academic year that is forwarded through the Dean of Instructional Services to the President's Cabinet. After approval by the Cabinet, the annual report is distributed to individual faculty. Starting in the fall of 2001, a copy has been retained in the Assessment Resource Collection in the College Library. Interested individuals may obtain copies from the Student Learning Assessment Committee.
3. The Student Learning Assessment Committee has at least one joint meeting with the Faculty Council during the fall and spring semesters.
4. Each year, all faculty are provided with a copy of the *Student Learning Assessment Model* by the committee.
5. Each year, all faculty (full-time and adjunct) are provided with a copy of *Faculty Assessment Notes* (a synopsis of assessment measures at the College and assessment methodologies).
6. Each semester, adjunct faculty and new full-time faculty are provided with a mentor from the Student Learning Assessment Committee. Assessment mentor training was established fall 2002.
7. A presentation on assessment is made during every new student orientation and in each section of ACS 100 Student College Success.
8. All new students are provided a copy of the *Student Guide to Educational Assessment* brochure. This brochure is also included on the Student Learning Assessment and Retention link of the College web site.

9. On December 12, 2008, the Student Learning Assessment Committee initiated a biannual Assessment Day to be held every fall and spring semester. The biannual Assessment Day is a joint meeting between the committee and all full-time faculty used to discuss, update, and refine the assessment practices at the College.

### **FEEDBACK LOOPS**

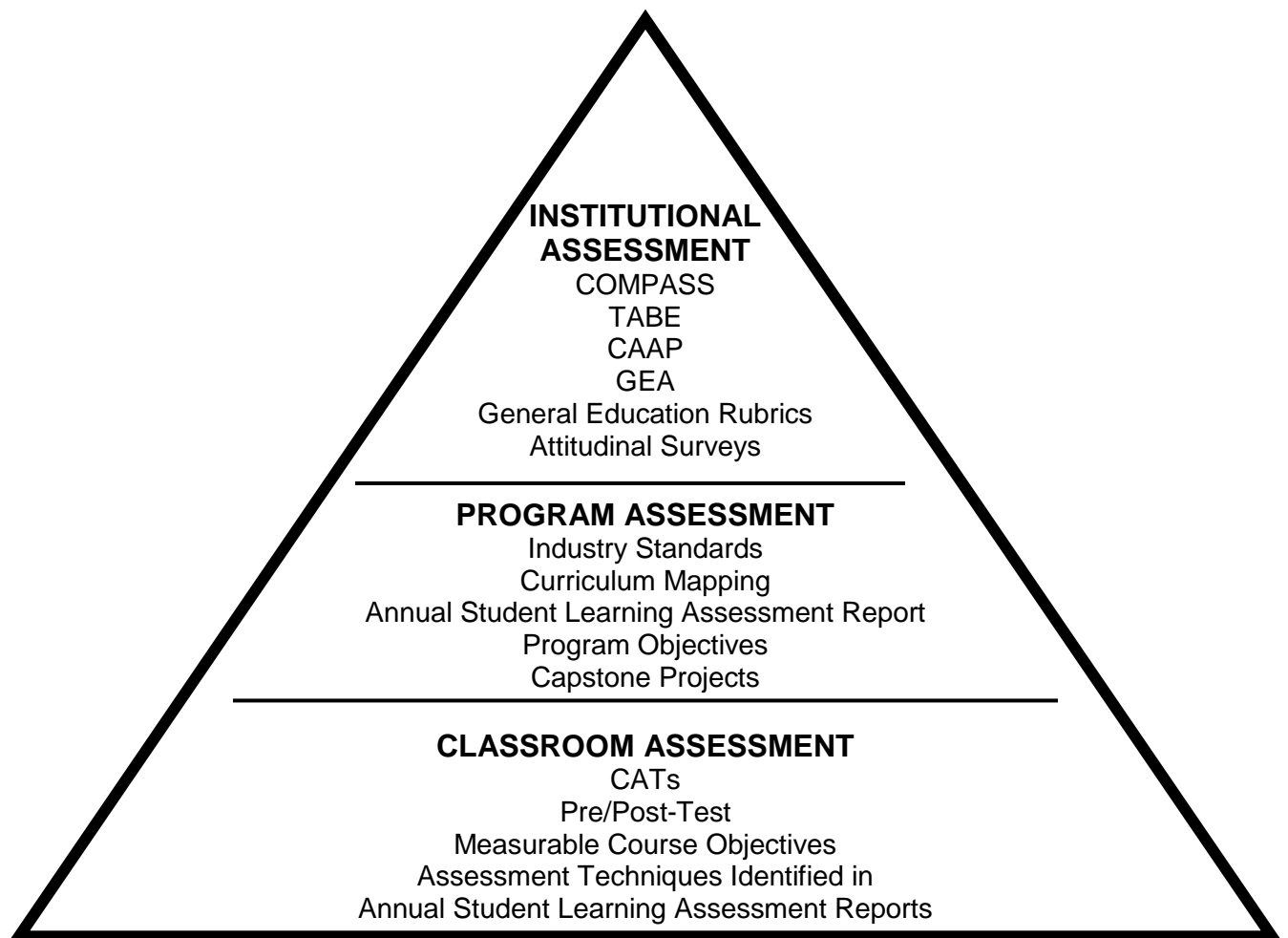
It is paramount to the success of the assessment process that there are both feedback loops and incentives for faculty to participate. The Student Learning Assessment Committee provides a number of documents that facilitate feedback loops:

1. Semester reports on data collected from faculty on assessment of student learning at the College at the course level.
2. Annual reports on the progress of assessment during the academic year. The annual report of the Student Learning Assessment Committee is presented by the Dean of Instructional Services (a member of the committee) to the President, who forwards it to the Board of Trustees, which then reviews it at one of their regular public meetings.
3. A Student Learning Assessment Evaluation Rubric to assess assessment at the College. (Appendix D)

Please see Appendix E for History of Data Dissemination and Feedback Loops.

## ASSESSMENT EMBEDDED THROUGHOUT THE INSTITUTION

Mesalands Community College realizes that meaningful and effective assessment must be pervasive throughout the institution; therefore, assessment is embedded throughout the College at all stages of the student's academic career:



Assessment is conducted at each of the three levels of the College: institutional, program, and classroom. As the pyramid shows, multiple assessment measures are used to assess student learning at each of the three levels. The purpose of the multiple measures at multiple levels is to assess student learning at each stage of their academic career at Mesalands Community College.

## **Classroom Level Assessment**

Individual instructors utilize pre/post-tests and Classroom Assessment Techniques (CATs) in their classes.

Beginning with the fifth academic year of implementation (2001-2002), each instructor was required to utilize one Classroom Assessment Technique (CAT) per credit of the course (up to three), as well as administer a pre-/post-test in every class. Currently, the same standards are being used for CATs and pre-/post-tests. Results of these assessment measures are reported to the Student Learning Assessment Committee at the end of each semester on the Faculty Outcomes Assessment Form (Appendix C).

Faculty maintains current course syllabi to include measurable course objectives and, if necessary, revise their measurable objectives each semester. Subsequent to spring 1998, all classes offered each semester have been required to have a course syllabus, which includes at least two measurable objectives, on file with the Dean of Instructional Services. These objectives must be assessed at the end of every semester the course is offered, and the results of this assessment are also reported to the Student Learning Assessment Committee on the Faculty Outcomes Assessment Form. Adjunct faculty are required to carry out the same level of assessment as full-time faculty. Beginning with the summer of 2005 the faculty will also use the Faculty Outcomes Assessment Form to report changes they made for each course during the semester as a result of assessment. This form has incorporated the previously used Faculty Change Form.

## **Academic Program Level Assessment**

Program assessment has five main components:

1. Each applied science program (degree and certificate) has identified measurable program objectives that are reviewed every fall semester and revised as needed. Associate degree majors are assessed with general education rubrics throughout their course of study and during Institutional Assessment Day. All degree and program objectives are published on the Student Learning Assessment and Retention link on the College web site.
2. Two programs (Building Trades and Farrier Science) utilize industry standard examinations.
3. Three programs (Business Administration, Computer Information Systems, and Farrier Science) utilize capstone courses.

4. By November 1 of each year, the program director or lead instructor of each program will complete the PDSA cycle of assessment by producing an Annual Student Learning Assessment Report.

### **Institutional Level Assessment - Instructional**

The principal institutional-level assessment measures are the Computer-Adaptive Placement Assessment and Support System (COMPASS) and the ACT Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP) tests. These tests provide pre- and post-test information on student learning at the institutional level in the areas of English, math and reading.

The General Education Assessment (GEA) is a College designed assessment tool used to evaluate general education competency (communication, scientific and quantitative reasoning, and critical thinking) attainment.

Additional information is obtained from attitudinal surveys (i.e., Student Opinion Survey). Data from these sources are analyzed by the Coordinator of Institutional and Enrollment Data.

### **Institutional Level Assessment - Administrative**

The Dean of Instructional Services, who is a member of the Student Learning Assessment Committee, is in charge of the budget planning process and is a member of the President's Cabinet. Thus, the opinions, desires, and needs of the committee can be communicated directly to the highest levels of decision making and strategic planning at the College. Assessment has its own line item in the College's budget to provide for testing, educational materials, travel to meetings, and other expenses. The budget for the Student Learning Assessment Committee was \$8,000 for the 2009-2010 academic year, demonstrating the commitment of the College to the assessment process.

In addition, the College created a position in 1998 for a Director of Institutional Development whose responsibilities include assessment, research, and planning. This individual is a member of the Student Learning Assessment Committee and is responsible for all data gathering and data analysis at the College, including that of assessment. The Director provides for smooth integration of institutional effectiveness, assessment, and planning at the College. This position is presently vacant.

## **ASSESSMENT MEASURES AND STUDENT ACADEMIC PROGRESS**

Not only is assessment embedded throughout the structure of the College, it is also enmeshed at all stages of the student's learning experience at the College.

## Assessment Prior to Registration

The Educational Services Center oversees a comprehensive Success Assessment of incoming students. The College requires all students who are in a degree program or anyone wishing to take an English or math class to take the ACT Computer-Adaptive Placement Assessment and Support System (COMPASS) test. This test is administered by the staff of the Educational Services Center and is used to place students in requisite English, math, and reading courses.

The Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) is required for students who have not completed a high school diploma or GED. This test is also administered by the Educational Services Center and students are subsequently counseled by Student Services staff.

| <b>Mesalands Community College</b><br><b>ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT</b><br><b>PRIOR TO REGISTRATION</b> |   |                                    |   |   |
|---|---|------------------------------------|---|---|
| ASSESSMENT TOOLS  | TARGET POPULATION   | DISTRIBUTION OF RESULTS            | USE OF RESULTS                                  | RESPONSIBILITY                          |
| ACT<br>COMPASS  | All students in degree programs, and all students taking core English or math | Student Services, faculty advisers | Placement in English, math, and reading classes | Director of Educational Services Center |
| Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE)  | Required for students who do not have a high school diploma or GED            | Student Services, faculty advisers | Placement in technical classes                  | Director of Educational Services Center |

## Assessment within Semester and End of Semester

Individual instructors utilize one Classroom Assessment Technique (CAT) per course credit hour (up to four) and pre- and post-tests within their classes as reported to the Student Learning Assessment Committee on standardized forms (Appendix C). In addition, instructors in pre-collegiate classes utilize the pre- and post-test portions of the TABE as a pre-test/post-test in their classes. Students take the portion of the TABE relevant to the class in which they are enrolled.

Faculty also assess student learning within a class by use of measurable course objectives (minimum of two per course) as stated in the course syllabi. Results of this assessment are reported to the Student Learning Assessment Committee at the end of each semester with changes made as a result of the findings by the faculty member, as well as those changes to be made the next time they offer the course (Appendix C).



The Withdrawing/Non-Returning Student Survey is given to all students who leave the College prior to earning a certificate or a degree. Data from this survey are reviewed by the Director of Institutional Development. However, it is clear that many students do not complete the survey and, if they do, their opinions may be colored by feelings of lack of success and dissatisfaction. This survey had produced a small number of responses in prior years and so, since 1998, this survey is sent to students who are transferring to other institutions directly after graduation. Thus, this survey will overlap with the Alumni Survey, but it will differ in that it will sample responses of recent attendees, whereas the Alumni Survey samples a broad range of graduates.

| <b>Mesalands Community College<br/>ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT<br/>WITHIN SEMESTER AND END OF SEMESTER</b> |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <b>ASSESSMENT TOOL</b>  | <b>TARGET POPULATION</b>  | <b>DISTRIBUTION OF RESULTS</b>                                  | <b>USE OF RESULTS</b>   | <b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>  |
| Appropriate course-embedded CATs  | All current students  | Sharing of results by participating faculty                     | To determine effects of instruction and foster continuous improvement in student learning | Individual faculty with assistance from the Assessment Committee |
| Pre- and post-tests in all courses  | All current students  | Sharing of results by participating faculty                     | To determine effects of instruction and foster continuous improvement in student learning | Individual faculty with assistance from the Assessment Committee |
| TABE or approved common test as pre-/post-test in pre-collegiate classes  | All current students in pre-collegiate courses  | Director of Educational Services Center, pre-collegiate faculty | To determine effects of instruction and foster continuous improvement in student learning | Individual faculty teaching pre-collegiate classes               |
| Measurable Course & Program Objectives  | All current students  | Sharing of results by participating faculty                     | To determine effects of instruction and foster continuous improvement in student learning | Individual faculty with assistance from the Assessment Committee |
| Withdrawing/ Non-Returning Student Survey   | Students who leave during the semester or who do not return next semester and those who transfer to another institution | Within Student Services and Instructional Services              | To assess completion of student goals   | Director of Institutional Development                            |

## **Assessment at End of Program**

The principal institutional level assessment measure at the end of programs is the appropriate ACT Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP) test(s) taken by all students receiving a degree, or those who have completed 60 credit hours in the semester when the CAAP is offered. Students who have not completed basic English (ENG 102), math (MATH 110), or science (any four-credit science class), will not take the relevant portions of the CAAP tests. The CAAP tests are given on a specifically designated Institutional Assessment Day, during the fall and spring semesters.

The general education assessment (GEA) is completed at the same time for students that are graduating in either the fall or spring. The GEA is a series of projects which the students are required to complete on Institutional Assessment Day to provide faculty with feedback in the three general education competency areas of communication, critical thinking, and scientific and quantitative reasoning. The GEA is scored using rubrics.

At the discretion of the lead instructor, Arts and Sciences/Applied Sciences programs (Business Administration, Computer Information Systems, and Farrier Science) utilize capstone projects as an assessment measure at the culmination of programs. These courses incorporate skills learned during the entire course of study at Mesalands Community College, evaluating how well students integrate these skills and knowledge.

Several programs utilize industry standard examinations at the end of programs. For example, Farrier Science and Building Trades use industry standard examinations.

| Mesalands Community College<br>ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT<br>END OF PROGRAM |  |  |   |  |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| ASSESSMENT TOOL   | TARGET POPULATION  | DISTRIBUTION OF RESULTS                            | USE OF RESULTS  | RESPONSIBILITY                             |
| General Education Assessment (GEA)  | All students completing 60 credit hours or those petitioning to graduate             | Instructors  | Assess student learning and development                       | All faculty                                |
| ACT CAAP  | All students completing 60 credit hours  | Within Student Services and Instructional Services | Assess student learning and development                       | Director of Institutional Development      |
| Capstone Courses/ Projects  | Degree-seeking Business Adm., Computer Information Systems, Farrier Science students | All instructors involved                           | Assessment of overall student learning in applicable programs | Lead instructors in applicable programs    |
| Program Outcomes Assessment Form  | All A.A., A.A.S., and certificate programs   | All employees                                      | Assessment of program health                                  | All lead instructors and program directors |

### Assessment after Graduation

The Institutional Effectiveness Committee conducts an annual Alumni Survey that provides qualitative data on the success of various aspects of student learning (cooperation and cooperative working). The results of this survey are analyzed and utilized by the Student Learning Assessment Committee.

| Mesalands Community College<br>ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT<br>AFTER GRADUATION |                       |  |   |                                       |
|---|-----------------------|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| ASSESSMENT TOOL   | TARGET POPULATION     | DISTRIBUTION OF RESULTS                  | USE OF RESULTS                                    | RESPONSIBILITY                        |
| Alumni Survey   | All College graduates | Student Services, Instructional Services | Gauge student's assessment of learning experience | Director of Institutional Development |

### Other Assessment Measures

Other assessment measures are utilized by the College on timeframes independent of the academic progress of individual students. Thus, the Student Opinion Survey is implemented in the spring semester of even years and given to second year students by the Director of Institutional Development. This provides qualitative data on students' opinions of student learning.

Academic Program Review is carried out every year for two programs or disciplines. Revision of the manual for this process in fall of 1998 added a significant component of assessment.

| Mesalands Community College<br>ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT<br>PERIODICALLY |                                  |  |  |                                       |
|---|----------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| ASSESSMENT TOOLS  | TARGET POPULATION                | DISTRIBUTION OF RESULTS  | USE OF RESULTS   | RESPONSIBILITY                        |
| ACT Student Opinion Survey  | Sample of second year students   | Instructional and Student Services, President's Cabinet              | Assess attitudinal aspects of students' responses to learning      | Director of Institutional Development |
| Academic Program Review   | All programs on a rotating basis | Faculty, Board of Trustees, President's Cabinet, Advisory Committees | For stimulating changes in assessment process at the program level | Dean of Instructional Services        |

### SYNTHESIZED ASSESSMENT MODEL FOR A LEARNING-CENTERED INSTITUTION

Mesalands Community College has a meaningful and pervasive assessment process that is instilled into the institution. Fourteen defining characteristics demonstrate the effectiveness of assessment at the College:

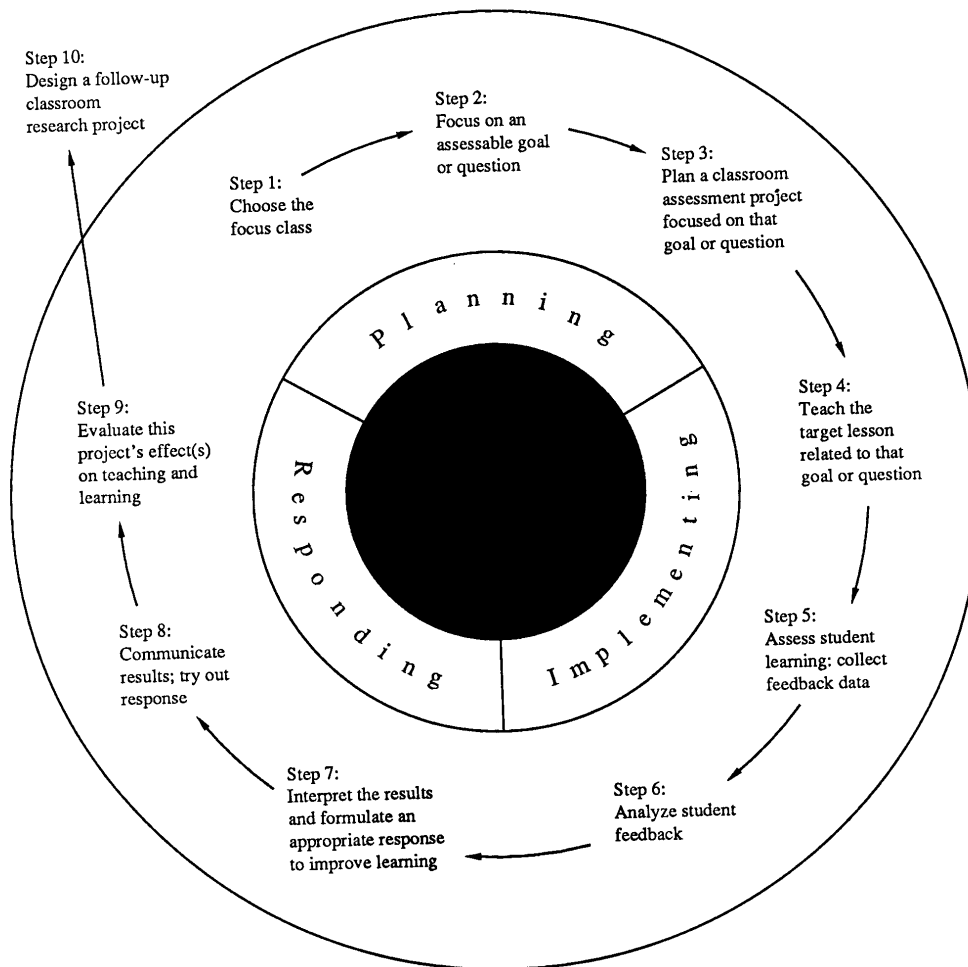
1. **Commitment** to assessment is demonstrated by many factors, including a Board of Trustees statement in favor of assessment and the establishment of the Student Learning Assessment Committee.
2. Committee as a **standing committee of the College**.
3. Establishment and maintenance of a **budget line item** for assessment.
4. Mesalands Community College has numerous **explicit expressions** of its commitment to assessment including sections in each revision of the College Catalog, Faculty Handbook, Student Learning Assessment & Retention link on the College web page and Student Handbook.
5. The College utilizes **multiple measures** of assessment, including direct and indirect measures of learning.
6. Assessment is implemented at the classroom, program, and institutional levels – in fact, there is **assessment at all institutional levels**.
7. There is **assessment at all academic stages** of the student's advancement.
8. **Measurable objectives** are in place for every course taught at the College and measurable program objectives are published on the Student Learning Assessment & Retention link on the College web page

9. Numerous methods of **feedback** are a part of the assessment process at the College.
10. **Incentives** are in place to encourage faculty to buy into assessment, including awards for outstanding proponents of assessment every year.
11. **Data dissemination** is a major goal of the Student Learning Assessment Committee and is accomplished through vehicles such as *Assessment News* which is completed each semester; additionally, semester and annual assessment reports are completed to disseminate data.
12. **Continuous progress** in the assessment process is demonstrated by the numerous refinements that have been adopted since 1997.
13. The Student Learning Assessment Committee is dedicated to **continuous refinement** of the assessment process not just through annual reviews of the *Model*, but also through changes to forms and procedures almost every semester as documented in the annual reports of the Assessment Committee.
14. **Change as a result of assessment/closing the loop** via the Plan→Do→Study→Adjust cycle of assessment is central to successful programs and is demonstrated at the College in every Faculty and Program Assessment Outcomes Form submitted every semester.

## THE NEVER-ENDING STORY: ONGOING ASSESSMENT AT MESALANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Assessment is not a terminal endeavor. The Plan→Do→Study→Adjust cycle of assessment is a continuous process. Therefore, after implementation of each annual revision of the *Student Learning Assessment Model*, there will be follow-up as to the success and relative usefulness of the implemented changes by “closing the loop.”

### CLASSROOM AND PROGRAM ASSESSMENT Assessment Cycle



(From Angelo and Cross, 1993)

We believe that the *Student Learning Assessment Model* will require evaluation on an ongoing basis. There is no universal template for the assessment of student academic achievement. Each institution must create its own assessment process that must evolve with the needs and expectations of that institution. Assessment is an ongoing journey as we adapt, improve, and strive to create a learner-centered institution.





# APPENDICES



## **APPENDIX A**

### **GENERAL EDUCATION RUBRICS**



## General Education Competency Communication – Writing Rubric

| Criteria   | Excellent<br>(4)   | Proficient<br>(3)   | Adequate<br>(2)   | Inadequate<br>(1)  |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| Provides a clear, concise thesis statement.                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statement is clear and concise</li> <li>• Statement is well reasoned</li> <li>• Statement leads to plentiful additional discussion</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statement is generally clear and concise</li> <li>• Statement is mostly well reasoned</li> <li>• Statement leads to enough additional discussion</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statement is recognized by the reader</li> <li>• Statement has some elements of reason</li> <li>• Statement leads to some additional discussion</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statement is not recognized by the reader</li> <li>• Statement is not reasoned</li> <li>• Statement does not lead to additional discussion</li> </ul>   |
| Provides supporting paragraphs which relate to the thesis. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting paragraphs are well reasoned</li> <li>• Supporting paragraphs clearly relate to the thesis</li> <li>• Supporting paragraphs are cohesive and logically developed.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting paragraphs contain mostly well reasoned content</li> <li>• Supporting paragraphs often but not always relate to the thesis</li> <li>• Supporting paragraphs demonstrate some cohesion and development.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting paragraphs contain some well reasoned content</li> <li>• Supporting paragraphs relate to the thesis in some way</li> <li>• Supporting paragraphs demonstrate a few elements of cohesion and development.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting paragraphs do not contain reasoned content</li> <li>• Supporting paragraphs do not relate to the thesis</li> <li>• Supporting paragraphs are neither cohesive nor unified</li> </ul> |

|   |  |   |  |  |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| <p>Correctly incorporates outside sources.</p>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides relevant outside sources</li> <li>• Cites outside sources correctly</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides mostly relevant outside sources</li> <li>• Cites outside sources, but no more than two errors</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides some relevant outside sources</li> <li>• Cites outside sources with no more than three errors</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides irrelevant or no outside sources</li> <li>• Cites outside sources with four or more errors</li> </ul>  |
| <p>Uses appropriate grammar, syntax, punctuation, and spelling.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing is error free in all categories (sentence structure, punctuation, spelling and grammar).</li> <li>• Sentence structure and vocabulary are well developed and varied.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing has errors in no more than one category (sentence structure, punctuation, spelling and grammar).</li> <li>• Sentence structure and vocabulary are developed and varied.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing has errors in no more than two categories (sentence structure, punctuation, spelling and grammar).</li> <li>• Sentence structure and vocabulary are somewhat developed and varied.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing has errors in three or more categories (sentence structure, punctuation, spelling and grammar).</li> <li>• Sentence structure and vocabulary are not developed or varied</li> </ul> |

## General Education Competency Communication – Information Technology Holistic Rubric

| Criteria  | Pass   | Comments |
|---|--|----------|
| Demonstrates basic computer and operating system skills                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access and change computer settings under the Control Panel</li> <li>• Navigate file directory structures and paths</li> <li>• Perform file management tasks (select, copy, rename and/or delete files)</li> <li>• Create, save, open, and print a document from some application</li> <li>• Navigate and locate information from Windows Help</li> </ul>   |          |
| Performs core tasks of Microsoft Office applications                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Format a document and how to use page layout, e.g., headers, footers, page breaks, bullets, etc.</li> <li>• Create tables, charts, graphs and/or formulas</li> <li>• Import and sort data and/or images into a document and format them appropriately</li> <li>• Demonstrate techniques for copying, cutting and pasting text and/or images within a document</li> <li>• Review a document using tools: spelling, grammar, word count, thesaurus</li> </ul> |          |
| Uses a search engine to access, navigate and evaluate information on the internet | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retrieve information from an internet search engine</li> <li>• Evaluate and rank sources of information for reliability</li> <li>• Select, copy and paste information retrieved from the internet College databases</li> </ul>  |          |
| Uses email with appropriate etiquette   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open, create and/or send email with attachments</li> <li>• Demonstrates appropriate email etiquette</li> </ul>  |          |





## General Education Competency Communication – Oral Presentation Rubric

| Criteria  | Excellent<br>(4)   | Proficient<br>(3)   | Adequate<br>(2)   | Inadequate<br>(1)   |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| Provides a well organized speech with appropriate introduction and conclusion.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very well organized.</li> <li>• Attention grabbing introduction.</li> <li>• Convincing conclusion</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well organized.</li> <li>• Suitable introduction.</li> <li>• Appropriate conclusion.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organized</li> <li>• Has an introduction.</li> <li>• Has a conclusion.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lacks organization</li> <li>• Poor introduction</li> <li>• Poor conclusion</li> </ul>  |
| Provides main points that are well-documented, compelling, supported with facts, developed clearly and concisely, and focused on the topic. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All main points are well-documented and supported by numerous, compelling facts.</li> <li>• Clearly and concisely presented.</li> <li>• Remains focused on topic throughout entire presentation.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All main points are documented and supported by fact.</li> <li>• Clearly and concisely presented most of the time</li> <li>• Remains focused on topic during most of presentation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main points somewhat supported.</li> <li>• Clearly and concisely presented some of the time</li> <li>• Remains focused on topic during some of presentation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little to no support of main points.</li> <li>• Not clearly and/or concisely presented.</li> <li>• Little to no focus on topic.</li> </ul> |
| Uses appropriate gestures, movements and eye contact.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent gestures and eye contact.</li> <li>• Conversational presentation.</li> <li>• Utilize note cards appropriately.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate level of gestures and eye contact.</li> <li>• Somewhat conversational presentation.</li> <li>• Moderately relies on note cards</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some gestures and eye contact.</li> <li>• Presentation rehearsed and mechanical</li> <li>• Relies on note cards</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little, if any, gestures and eye contact</li> <li>• Presentation poorly delivered.</li> <li>• Totally relies on note cards.</li> </ul>     |

|  |   |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| <p>Speaks clearly and understandably using standard, edited English with correct mechanics (pronunciation, sentence structure and grammar) relative to audience.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent mechanics throughout.</li> <li>• Very appropriate presentation relative to audience.</li> <li>• Tone is respectful and civil.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Few mechanical errors.</li> <li>• Majority of presentation appropriate to audience.</li> <li>• Tone is somewhat respectful and civil</li> </ul>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some mechanical errors.</li> <li>• Presentation inappropriate to some members of the audience.</li> <li>• Neutral tone</li> </ul>                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many/ numerous mechanical errors.</li> <li>• Inappropriate presentation relative to audience.</li> <li>• Tone was disrespectful.</li> </ul> |
| <p>Provides appropriate handouts and/or visual aids.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides entire audience with useful, presentation quality handouts</li> <li>• Audiovisual aids contain appropriate amount of information.</li> <li>• Grammatically correct material.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides entire audience with handouts</li> <li>• Most audiovisual aids contained appropriate amounts of information.</li> <li>• Few grammatical errors.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides majority of audience with handouts</li> <li>• Audiovisual aids contained too much or too little information.</li> <li>• Some grammatical errors.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did not provide audience with handouts</li> <li>• No audiovisual aids.</li> <li>• Many/ numerous grammatical errors.</li> </ul>             |

## REASON SCIENTIFICALLY AND QUANTITATIVELY

### General Education Objective No. 4 – Demonstrate **Mathematical Principles**

| Levels of Achievement   |   |   |   |   |   |                  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|------------------|
| Criteria  | Excellent<br>5  | Proficient<br>4   | Acceptable<br>3   | Inadequate<br>2   | Unacceptable<br>1   | Student<br>Score |
| <b>Recognize and provide definitions for the vocabulary of mathematical principles associated with number systems, linear equations and polynomials.</b>  | Successfully provide definitions for more than 90% of the relevant problems.                                  | Successfully provide definitions for more than 80% of the relevant problems.                                  | Successfully provide definitions for more than 70% of the relevant problems.                                  | Successfully provide definitions for more than 60% of the relevant problems.                                  | Successfully provide definitions for less than 60% of the relevant problems.                                  |                  |
| <b>Obtain and describe results to linear equations in one variable using the addition and multiplication principles which could include ascribing correct units and measures to results as well as writing an appropriate sentence interpreting the result.</b>   | Successfully solve more than 90% of the relevant problems.  | Successfully solve more than 80% of the relevant problems.  | Successfully solve more than 70% of the relevant problems.  | Successfully solve more than 60% of the relevant problems.  | Successfully solve less than 60% of the relevant problems.  |                  |
| <b>Select or develop representations appropriate to linear equations in two variables and/or make inferences from such equations by;</b><br><b>a. selecting or setting up an equation and/or</b><br><b>b. arranging the data into a table and/or</b><br><b>c. creating a graph with or without technological assistance and/or</b><br><b>d. describing a trend indicated in an equation, a chart or a graph, and making predictions based on that trend</b> | Successfully select or develop representations or make inferences for more than 90% of the relevant problems. | Successfully select or develop representations or make inferences for more than 80% of the relevant problems. | Successfully select or develop representations or make inferences for more than 70% of the relevant problems. | Successfully select or develop representations or make inferences for more than 60% of the relevant problems. | Successfully select or develop representations or make inferences for less than 60% of the relevant problems. |                  |
| <b>Perform arithmetic operations on, and factor various types of polynomial expressions. Solve 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> degree polynomial equations using the zero product principle.</b>   | Successfully solve more than 90% of the relevant problems.  | Successfully solve more than 80% of the relevant problems.  | Successfully solve more than 70% of the relevant problems.  | Successfully solve more than 60% of the relevant problems.  | Successfully solve less than 60% of the relevant problems.  |                  |



## REASON SCIENTIFICALLY AND QUANTITATIVELY

### General Education Objective No. 5 – Demonstrate **Scientific Reasoning**

| Levels of Achievement   |  |   |  |   |   |                  |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|------------------|
| Criteria  | Excellent<br>5   | Proficient<br>4   | Acceptable<br>3  | Inadequate<br>2   | Unacceptable<br>1   | Student<br>Score |
| <b>Separation of observations (data) and interpretations</b>                | Distinguishes explicitly between observations and interpretations and presents each separately.                                      | Distinguishes consistently between observations and interpretations, and presents each separately.                | Distinguishes in most cases between observations and interpretations, and with some exceptions presents each separately. | Does rarely distinguish between observations and interpretations and presents them mixed together.                    | Presents little or no observations and interpretations.                     |                  |
| <b>Reasoning supported by using a variety of evidence</b>                   | Reasoning clearly supported using a multitude of facts, figures, and documented data.  | Reasoning supported using a variety of facts, figures, and documented data.                                       | Reasoning reasonably well supported using some facts, figures, or documented data.                                       | Reasoning poorly supported using few facts, figures, or documented data.  | Reasoning absent or unsupported by any documented facts or figures.         |                  |
| <b>Interpretation and analysis of results</b>                               | Presents critical evaluation of results, including alternative explanations of results.  | Presents well-conducted interpretation and analysis of results; may consider alternative explanations of results. | Presents reasonable interpretation and analysis of results.  | Presents data analysis with minimal discussion or interpretation of results.  | Presents results without interpretation, or does not state results.         |                  |
| <b>Distinguishes well supported from poorly supported scientific claims</b> | Distinguishes consistently between well and poorly supported claims, justified by detailed discussion and well-formulated reasoning. | Distinguishes consistently between well and poorly supported claims and presents valid reasoning.                 | Shows ability to distinguish between well and poorly supported claims and attempts to present reasoning.                 | Shows some ability to distinguish between well and poorly supported claims, but present little or no valid reasoning. | Consistently fails to distinguish between well and poorly supported claims. |                  |



## REASON SCIENTIFICALLY AND QUANTITATIVELY

### General Education Objective No. 6 – Apply **Scientific Methods** to the Inquiry Process

| Levels of Achievement  |  |   |  |  |  |                  |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|------------------|
| Criteria   | Excellent<br>5   | Proficient<br>4   | Acceptable<br>3  | Inadequate<br>2  | Unacceptable<br>1  | Student<br>Score |
| <b>Problem is recognized and investigative question is formulated</b>    | Problem is recognized and essentials explained, investigative question is clearly formulated.  | Problem is recognized, investigative question is formulated.  | Problem is recognized, investigative question is outlined.                         | Parts of problem is recognized, investigative question is unclear or incomplete.               | Problem is not recognized and/or investigative question misses the point or is not formulated. |                  |
| <b>Reasonable, testable hypothesis is presented</b>                      | Hypothesis is reasonable, clearly stated, and fully explains question.   | Hypothesis is reasonable and answers question.  | Hypothesis is reasonable, and addresses question.                                  | Hypothesis does not answer question or is untestable.  | No hypothesis is presented.  |                  |
| <b>Prediction is formulated as logical consequence of the hypothesis</b> | Prediction is logical and fully explained.   | Prediction is logical and well formulated.  | Prediction is logical and reasonably outlined.                                     | Prediction is unclear or illogical.  | No prediction is formulated.   |                  |
| <b>Formulation of a conclusion</b>                                       | Conclusion is logical and well formulated, explains in details the degree of correctness of the hypothesis, clearly presents further avenues of testing or formulates new hypothesis | Conclusion is logical, explains the degree of correctness of the hypothesis, suggests further avenues of testing. | Conclusion is coherent, and addresses the degree of correctness of the hypothesis. | Conclusion is incoherent, and/or does not explain the degree of correctness of the hypothesis. | Conclusion not presented or is highly incoherent.  |                  |





# CRITICAL THINKING

## General Education Objective No. 7 – **Read and Analyze** Complex Ideas

| Levels of Achievement   |  |                                |                               |  |                            |                  |
|---|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------|------------------|
| Criteria  | Excellent<br>5   | Proficient<br>4                | Acceptable<br>3               | Inadequate<br>2                              | Unacceptable<br>1          | Student<br>Score |
| <b>Analyzes and questions data validity</b>                                 | Analyzes insightful questions                            | Asks insightful questions      | Asks a variety of questions   | Asks some questions                          | Fails to question data     |                  |
| <b>Does not allow bias to affect results</b>                                | Refutes bias   | Detects bias                   | Recognizes bias               | Observes some bias                           | Ignores bias               |                  |
| <b>Interpretation and analysis of results</b>                               | Examines inconsistencies                                 | Identifies inconsistencies     | Recognizes inconsistencies    | States some inconsistencies                  | Detects no inconsistencies |                  |
| <b>Distinguishes well supported from poorly supported scientific claims</b> | Carefully examines and categorizes information for value | Examines information for value | Categorizes information types | Does not select valuable information sources | Does not provide sources   |                  |



## CRITICAL THINKING

### General Education Objective No. 8 – **Locate, Evaluate, and Apply Research Information**

| Levels of Achievement   |                               |                            |                            |                             |                           |                  |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| Criteria  | Excellent<br>5                | Proficient<br>4            | Acceptable<br>3            | Inadequate<br>2             | Unacceptable<br>1         | Student<br>Score |
| <b>Develops and evaluates conclusions from research</b>         | Formulates conclusions        | Examines conclusions       | Recognizes conclusions     | Identifies some conclusions | Fails to draw conclusions |                  |
| <b>Develops and evaluates logical arguments within research</b> | Analyzes arguments            | Categorizes arguments      | Recognizes some arguments  | Excludes some arguments     | Sees no arguments         |                  |
| <b>Comprehends and applies research data</b>                    | Synthesizes data              | Carefully examines data    | Evaluates data             | Paraphrases data            | Repeats data              |                  |
| <b>Locates and applies research</b>                             | Provides substantial research | Includes abundant research | Includes adequate research | Includes little research    | Omits research            |                  |



## CRITICAL THINKING

### General Education Objective No. 9 – Evaluate and Present Well-Reasoned Arguments

| Levels of Achievement                     |                                  |                               |                                  |                                   |   |                  |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|------------------|
| Criteria                                  | Excellent<br>5                   | Proficient<br>4               | Acceptable<br>3                  | Inadequate<br>2                   | Unacceptable<br>1                         | Student<br>Score |
| <b>Provides strong arguments</b>          | Argues succinctly                | Argues clearly                | Provides reasonable arguments    | Misconstructs arguments           | Omits arguments                           |                  |
| <b>Identifies and presents issues</b>     | Thoroughly discusses issues      | Categorizes issues            | Identifies issues                | Generates issues                  | Misrepresents issues                      |                  |
| <b>Conclusions justified by arguments</b> | Thoroughly justifies conclusions | Clearly justifies conclusions | Adequately justifies conclusions | Inadequately justifies conclusion | Provides no justification for conclusions |                  |
| <b>Evaluates and utilizes information</b> | Synthesizes information          | Evaluates information         | Incorporates information         | Overlooks some information        | Excludes information                      |                  |



## **APPENDIX B**

# **STUDENT LEARNING ASSESSMENT STANDARDIZED REPORT**





# STUDENT LEARNING ASSESSMENT STANDARDIZED REPORT

Program Title \_\_\_\_\_

Reporting Period Semester: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

*Short description of program very similar to that published in the catalog. May include mission and vision of program.*

## Program Objectives/Competencies:

Upon completion of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Certificate/Associate name as it appears in catalog) Program:

1. The student will be able to...
2. The student will be able to...
3. The student will be able to...
4. The student will be able to...
5. The student will be able to...

## General Education Competencies:

Upon completion of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Certificate/Associate name as it appears in catalog) Program:

1. Students will read, write, listen and use verbal skills to organize and communicate information and ideas in personal and group settings (Communication).
2. Students will demonstrate mathematical principles and scientific reasoning by applying appropriate methods to the inquiry process (Quantitative and Scientific Reasoning).
3. Students will identify, evaluate and analyze evidence to guide decision making and communicate his/her beliefs clearly and accurately (Critical Thinking).

## Overview:

*Short overview statement of assessment efforts specific to the program. An example could be as follows:*

The (program name) assessment plan is in its \_\_\_\_\_ year and is addressed via the Plan→Do→Study→Adjust Cycle that begins every fall term and follows one (program name) cohort from first term through graduation.



**Program Objectives Assessment Plan:**

*Answers the who, what, where, when, how and to what extent as it relates to the implementation of the program objective-related assessment plan. A table format presentation (referred to as Curriculum Mapping) is suggested in that it can capture the “big picture” of the assessment plan and may look as follows:*

| <b>PROGRAM OBJECTIVE</b>          | <b>MEASUREMENT TOOLS</b>  | <b>COURSES IN WHICH PROGRAM OBJECTIVES ARE PRESENTED AND/OR MEASURED.</b>   |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Program objective #1 written out. | Bulleted list of specific measurement tools:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written Exam</li> <li>• Practical Exam</li> <li>• Business Plan</li> </ul> Remember, you should have at least 3 separate measures to evaluate whether or not the program objective has been accomplished (referred to at “triangulation”). | Bulleted list of those courses that the measurement tools listed in the middle column are presented and/or measured:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DMT 151</li> <li>• DMT 164</li> <li>• DMT 274</li> </ul> |
| Program objective #2 written out. |   |   |
| Program objective #3 written out. |   |   |
| Program objective #4 written out. |   |   |
| Program objective #5 written out. |   |   |

**Program Objective Results:**

*This section presents the raw data results of all those measurement tools identified above (in the second column). Again, it is suggested that this data be presented in table format. Each measurement tool result should have a very short introductory section. **Following are examples that you may want to consider:***

**Measurement Tool:** Written Exam\*  
**Program Objective(s):** 1, 3, and 4  
**Goal Results:** 70% pass rate/75% cut score

| <b>Reporting Period</b> | <b># of students attempting</b> | <b># passing</b> | <b>% passing</b> |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 2008-2009               | 9                               | 6                | 67% (Mean=78%)   |
| 2007-2008               | 5                               | 4                | 80% (Mean=82%)   |
| 2006-2007               | 7                               | 5                | 71% (Mean=80%)   |

\*Written exam is based on the [Diesel Mechanics Association (2005)] identified knowledge, skills and behaviors.



**Measurement Tool:** Practical Exam  
**Program Objective(s):** 2, 3, and 5  
**Goal Results:** 90% pass rate/80% cut score

| Reporting Period  | # of students attempting | # passing   | % passing  |
|---|--------------------------|-------------|--|
| 2008-2009<br>• Electrical<br>• Hydraulics<br>• Heating and Air Conditioning | 5<br>5<br>5              | 3<br>5<br>5 | 60% (Mean=67%)<br>100%(Mean=77%)<br>100%(Mean=89%) |
| 2007-2008<br>• Electrical<br>• Hydraulics<br>• Heating and Air Conditioning | 8<br>8<br>8              | 5<br>7<br>8 | 71%(Mean=69%)<br>88%(Mean=86%)<br>100%(Mean=87%)   |
| 2006-2007   | DATA NOT AVAILABLE       |             |  |

**Measurement Tool:** Business Plan  
**Program Objective(s):** 4 and 5  
**Goal Results:** 90% “Average” or “Above Average”\*\*

| Reporting Period (n) | Above Average | Average | Below Average | Poor    |
|----------------------|---------------|---------|---------------|---------|
| 2008-2009 (n=6)      | 2 (33%)       | 3 (50%) | 0             | 1 (16%) |
| 2007-2008 (n=7)      | 2 (28%)       | 3 (43%) | 2 (28%)       | 1(14%)  |

\*\*Descriptive categories based on evaluation rubric.

**General Education Competencies:**

Upon completion of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Certificate/Associate name as it appears in catalog) Program:

1. Communication: Students will read, write, listen and use verbal skills to organize and communicate information and ideas in personal and group settings.
2. Quantitative and Scientific Reasoning: Students will demonstrate mathematical principles and scientific reasoning by applying appropriate methods to the inquiry process.
3. Critical Thinking: Students will identify, evaluate and analyze evidence to guide decision making and communicate his/her beliefs clearly and accurately.

**General Education Competencies Assessment Plan:**

*Answers the who, what, where, when, how, and to what extent as it relates to the implementation of the general education competencies-related assessment plan. In other words, you need to repeat what you did for your program objectives for the general education competencies. A table format presentation (a.k.a. curriculum mapping) is again suggested in that it can capture the “big picture” of the assessment plan and may look as follows:*



| GENERAL EDUCATION COMPETENCIES        | MEASUREMENT TOOLS                                | COURSES IN WHICH PROGRAM OBJECTIVES ARE PRESENTED AND/OR MEASURED. |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Communication                         | College Rubric<br>Program-Specific Rubric<br>GEA |  |
| Quantitative and Scientific Reasoning | College Rubric<br>Program-Specific Rubric<br>GEA |  |
| Critical Thinking                     | College Rubric<br>Program-Specific Rubric<br>GEA |  |

### General Education Competencies Results:

This section presents the rubric general education competencies results of all those measurement tools identified above (in the second column). Again, it is suggested that this data be presented in table format. Multiple measures are still required to adequately measure whether or not the general education competencies have been met. The same Mesalands Community College-created rubric can be used as the measurement tool each time the specific competency is evaluated (or you can modify the existing College rubric for your program as well as use the result from the GEA) (remember **triangulation**).

*Each measurement tool result should have a very short introductory section. The following is an example that you may want to consider:*

**General Education Competency:**

Communication

**Measurement Tool:**

College Rubric

**Goal Results:**

90% "Proficient" or "Excellent"

| General Education Competency   | 5<br>Excellent | 4<br>Proficient | 3<br>Acceptable | 2<br>Inadequate | 1<br>Unacceptable |
|--|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| <b>Present ideas orally according to standard usage.</b>               |                |                 |                 |                 |                   |
| Provides an appropriate introduction and conclusion                    |                |                 |                 |                 |                   |
| Provides main points that are documented, developed, clear and focused |                |                 |                 |                 |                   |
| Provides appropriate handouts and audio-visual aids                    |                |                 |                 |                 |                   |
| Speaks clearly and understandably using standard, edited English       |                |                 |                 |                 |                   |





| <b>Presents ideas in writing.</b>   |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Provides content that is clearly focused and supported by the writer's understanding of the topic       |  |  |  |  |  |
| Uses appropriate grammar, syntax, usage, punctuation, and spelling                                      |  |  |  |  |  |
| Logically organizes and develops ideas in writing   |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Demonstrates application of information technology.</b>  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Demonstrates basic computer and operating system skills   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Performs core application tasks within computer software packages, such as Word, Power-Point, and Excel |  |  |  |  |  |
| Uses a search engine to access, navigate, and evaluate information on the Internet                      |  |  |  |  |  |

**General Education Competency:**

Quantitative and Scientific Reasoning

**Measurement Tool:**

Program Specific Rubric

**Goal Results:**

70% "Proficient" or "Excellent"

| <b>General Education Competency</b>  | <b>5<br/>Excellent</b> | <b>4<br/>Proficient</b> | <b>3<br/>Acceptable</b> | <b>2<br/>Inadequate</b> | <b>1<br/>Unacceptable</b> |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Demonstrates mathematical principles.</b>   |                        |                         |                         |                         |                           |
| Identify relevant data by:<br>a. extracting appropriate data from a problem containing extraneous data and/or<br>b. identifying appropriate data in a word problem |                        |                         |                         |                         |                           |



|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <p>Select or develop representations appropriate to the problem which describe the data by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. arranging the data into a table or spreadsheet and/or</li> <li>b. creating pictorial representations (bar graphs, pie charts, or rectangular coordinate graphs, etc.) with or without technological assistance, and/or</li> <li>c. selecting or setting up an equation</li> </ul>  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <p>Obtain and describe results by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. obtaining correct mathematical results, with or without technological assistance, and</li> <li>b. ascribing correct units and measures to results which could include writing an appropriate sentence interpreting the result</li> </ul>  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <p>Draw inferences from data by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. describing a trend indicated in a chart or graph, and making predictions based on that trend, and/or</li> <li>b. describing the important features of data presented in a table or spreadsheet, and making predictions based on that trend, and/or</li> <li>c. describing the important features of an equation or formula, and making predictions based on those features, and/or</li> <li>d. drawing qualitative conclusions about the original situation based on the quantitative results that were obtained</li> </ul> |  |  |  |  |  |



| <b>Demonstrates scientific reasoning.</b>                            |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Separation of observations (data) and interpretations                |  |  |  |  |  |
| Reasoning supported by using a variety of evidence                   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Interpretation and analysis of results                               |  |  |  |  |  |
| Distinguishes well supported from poorly supported scientific claims |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Apply scientific methods to the inquiry process.</b>              |  |  |  |  |  |
| Problem is recognized and investigative question is formulated       |  |  |  |  |  |
| Reasonable, testable hypothesis is presented                         |  |  |  |  |  |
| Prediction is formulated as logical consequence of the hypothesis    |  |  |  |  |  |
| Formulation of a conclusion  |  |  |  |  |  |

**General Education Competency:**

Critical Thinking

**Measurement Tool:**

GEA

**Goal Results:**

80% "Proficient" or "Excellent"

| <b>General Education Competency</b>                                  | <b>5<br/>Excellent</b> | <b>4<br/>Proficient</b> | <b>3<br/>Acceptable</b> | <b>2<br/>Inadequate</b> | <b>1<br/>Unacceptable</b> |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Read and analyze complex ideas.</b>                               |                        |                         |                         |                         |                           |
| Analyzes and questions data validity                                 |                        |                         |                         |                         |                           |
| Does not allow bias to affect results                                |                        |                         |                         |                         |                           |
| Interpretation and analysis of results                               |                        |                         |                         |                         |                           |
| Distinguishes well supported from poorly supported scientific claims |                        |                         |                         |                         |                           |
| <b>Locate, evaluate and apply research information.</b>              |                        |                         |                         |                         |                           |
| Develops and evaluates conclusions from research                     |                        |                         |                         |                         |                           |
| Develops and evaluates logical arguments within research             |                        |                         |                         |                         |                           |
| Comprehends and applies research data                                |                        |                         |                         |                         |                           |
| Locates and applies research   |                        |                         |                         |                         |                           |



| Evaluate and present well-reasoned arguments. |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Provides strong arguments                     |  |  |  |  |  |
| Identifies and presents issues                |  |  |  |  |  |
| Conclusions justified by arguments            |  |  |  |  |  |
| Evaluates and utilizes information            |  |  |  |  |  |

### PDSA CYCLE RESULTS (2007-2008)

*Based on previous year. The following analyses are of both program objectives and general education competencies.*

#### Analysis

**Problem Area:** Using hard data, this is where the lead instructor/program director identifies where a particular general education, program, or course objective was not successfully accomplished.

**Goal:** Specifically identify quantitatively the goal improvement over the course of the next PDSA cycle.

**Action Plan:** Indicate what specific changes will be made in the classroom to address the identified problem area and accomplish the stated goal.

**Results:** State how successful the implementation of the action plan was at addressing the problem area and accomplishing the stated goal.

### PDSA CYCLE GOALS (2008-2009)

*Based on this year*

#### Analysis

**Problem Area:** Using hard data, this is where the lead instructor/program director identifies where a particular general education, program, or course objective was not successfully accomplished.

**Goal:** Specifically identify quantitatively the goal improvement over the course of the next PDSA cycle.

**Action Plan:** Indicate what specific changes will be made in the classroom to address the identified problem area and accomplish the stated goal.

**Results:** This area would be left blank since the action plan identified above will be implemented during the future semester(s).

#### Program Objective/Competency Rubrics:

**General Education Competency Rubrics:** (if modified from MCC created rubric)





## **APPENDIX C**

### **FACULTY OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT FORM**



Print Form



**Mesalands Community College  
Faculty Outcomes Assessment  
Narrative Reporting Form**

**Course Information**

Instructor Name (Last, First): \_\_\_\_\_ Semester: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Date:   
Dept: \_\_\_\_\_ Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_ Credits: \_\_\_\_\_ Course Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Course Feedback**

Please comment on any strategies you used in the course that improved student learning.



Please comment on anything that was not successful in meeting your learning objectives.

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for the student to write their comments on anything that was not successful in meeting their learning objectives.

What changes to this course would you recommend for yourself or for another instructor to improve student learning the next time this course is offered?

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for the student to write their recommendations for changes to the course to improve student learning.



## **APPENDIX D**

### **Student Learning Assessment Evaluation Rubric**





## Mesalands Community College Student Learning Assessment Evaluation Rubric

| <b>Evaluation Criteria</b>  | <b>1</b>   | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b>   | <b>5</b>  |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| <b>Measures Program Objectives</b>  | No program objectives measured.                                | 1 or 2 program objectives measured.                                       | 3 program objectives measured.  | 4 program objectives measured.   | All 5 program objectives measured.  |
| <b>Measures General Education Competency: Communication</b>                         | No communication competencies measured.                        | 1 to 4 of the communication criteria measured.                            | 5 to 6 of the communication criteria measured.                            | 7 to 9 of the communication criteria measured.                             | All 10 of the communication criteria measured.                                |
| <b>Measures General Education Competency: Quantitative and Scientific Reasoning</b> | No quantitative or scientific reasoning competencies measured. | 1 to 5 of the quantitative and/or scientific reasoning criteria measured. | 6 to 7 of the quantitative and/or scientific reasoning criteria measured. | 8 to 11 of the quantitative and/or scientific reasoning criteria measured. | All 12 of the quantitative or scientific reasoning criteria measured.         |
| <b>Measures General Education Competency: Critical Thinking</b>                     | No critical thinking competencies measured.                    | 1 to 5 of the critical thinking criteria measured.                        | 6 to 7 of the critical thinking criteria measured.                        | 8 to 11 of the critical thinking criteria measured.                        | All 12 of the critical thinking criteria measured.                            |
| <b>Uses Multiple Measures</b>   | No measures.   | One measure.  | Two measures.   | Three measures.  | More than 3 measures.   |
| <b>Uses Both Internal and External Sources</b>                                      | No data.   |   | Uses either internal data or external data.                               |  | Uses both internal and external data.   |
| <b>Has Complete Data Summary</b>  | No data summary.   | Tells what and when.  | Tells who, what and when.   | Tells how, who, what and when.   | Tells how, who, what, when and why.   |
| <b>Changes to Curriculum Based on Data (Closes the Loop)</b>                        | No changes made.   | Changes made without data.  | Changes made based on anecdotal data.                                     | Changes made based on empirical data.                                      | Changes made based on empirical data with follow-up plans to measure effects. |

1= Poor

5 = Excellent



## **APPENDIX E**

### **HISTORY OF DATA DISSEMINATION AND FEEDBACK LOOPS**



## EVOLUTION OF *DATA DISSEMINATION AND FEEDBACK LOOPS* AT MESALANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE 1995-2004

|                           |  |           |   |           |           |           |           |  |  |
|---------------------------|--|-----------|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--|--|
|                           |  |           |   |           |           |           |           | Best practices in assessment shared with faculty   |  |
|                           |  |           |   |           |           |           |           | CAAP Test results distributed to student participants  |  |
|                           |  |           |   |           |           |           |           | Student Guide to Educational Assessment given to all new students  |  |
|                           |  |           |   |           |           |           |           | Presentation on assessment at every new student orientation  |  |
|                           |  |           |   |           |           |           |           | Assessment Day in spring semester  |  |
|                           |  |           |   |           |           |           |           | Student Handbook contains explanation of assessment  |  |
|                           |  |           |   |           |           |           |           | Awards given to outstanding faculty for assessment and names presented to Board of Trustees  |  |
|                           |  |           |   |           |           |           |           | College catalog contains clear statement of College's commitment to assessment   |  |
|                           |  |           |   |           |           |           |           | Faculty Handbook contains clear statement of College's commitment to assessment and details of faculty's role  |  |
|                           |  |           |   |           |           |           |           | Annual assessment reports presented to the Board of Trustees   |  |
|                           |  |           |   |           |           |           |           | <i>Faculty Assessment Notes</i> distributed to all adjunct and full-time faculty every semester  |  |
|                           |  |           |   |           |           |           |           | Annual reports on assessment distributed to faculty and administration   |  |
|                           |  |           |   |           |           |           |           | Student Learning Assessment Committee (formerly Educational Outcomes/Assessment Committee) has joint meetings with Faculty Council every semester                      |  |
|                           |  |           |   |           |           |           |           | Assessment Reserve Collection in Library contains reference materials  |  |
|                           |  |           |   |           |           |           |           | Semester reports published by Student Learning Assessment Committee (formerly Educational Outcomes/Assessment Committee) and distributed to faculty and administration |  |
|                           |  |           |   |           |           |           |           | <i>Educational Outcomes Assessment News: a Faculty Initiative</i> produced every semester and distributed to College community   |  |
| No coordinated Assessment | Phase-in of data dissemination and feedback mechanisms |           | Comprehensive plan of data dissemination and feedback |           |           |           |           |  |  |
| 1995-1996                 | 1996-1997  | 1997-1998 | 1998-1999   | 1999-2000 | 2000-2001 | 2001-2002 | 2002-2003 | 2003-2004  |  |



**APPENDIX F**  
**TIMELINES FOR ASSESSMENT**





## Assessment Responsibilities of Individual Faculty for the 2010-2011 Academic Year

| Date | Action |
|------|--------|
|------|--------|

### Fall 2010

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| First week of fall semester (Week 1) | Submit, if necessary, course syllabi for classes being taught during this semester with new or revised measurable course objectives to the Chair of the Student Learning Assessment Committee |
| Week 2                               | Suggested date to carry out pre-test in all classes   |
| Week 5                               | Suggested date to carry out first CAT in every course   |
| Week 8                               | Suggested date to carry out second CAT in every course  |
| Week 12                              | Suggested date to carry out third CAT in every course   |
| Week 15                              | Suggested date to carry out post-test in all classes  |
| During Finals week (Week 16)         | Submit report on semester's classroom assessment to the Student Learning Assessment Committee   |

### Spring 2011

|  |   |
|--|---|
| First week of spring semester (Week 1) | Submit, if necessary, course syllabi for classes being taught during this semester with new or revised measurable course objectives to the Chair of the Student Learning Assessment Committee |
| Week 2                                 | Suggested date to carry out pre-test in all classes   |
| Week 5                                 | Suggested date to carry out first CAT in every course   |
| Week 8                                 | Suggested date to carry out second CAT in every course  |
| Week 12                                | Suggested date to carry out third CAT in every course   |
| Week 15                                | Suggested date to carry out post-test in all classes  |
| During Finals week (Week 16)           | Submit report on semester's classroom assessment to the Student Learning Assessment Committee   |



### Summer 2011 Session I Courses (4 week session)

|   |   |
|---|---|
| First week of summer I session (Week 1) | Submit, if necessary, course syllabi for classes being taught during this semester with new or revised measurable course objectives to the Chair of the Student Learning Assessment Committee |
| Week 2                                  | Suggested date to carry out pre-test in all classes   |
| Week 2                                  | Suggested date to carry out first CAT in every course   |
| Week 3                                  | Suggested date to carry out second CAT in every course  |
| Week 4                                  | Suggested date to carry out third CAT in every course   |
| Week 4                                  | Suggested date to carry out post-test in all classes  |
| Week 4                                  | Submit report on semester's classroom assessment to the Student Learning Assessment Committee   |

### Summer 2011 Session II Courses (8 week session)

|  |   |
|--|---|
| First week of summer II session (Week 1) | Submit, if necessary, course syllabi for classes being taught during this semester with new or revised measurable course objectives to the Chair of the Student Learning Assessment Committee |
| Week 2                                   | Suggested date to carry out pre-test in all classes   |
| Week 3                                   | Suggested date to carry out first CAT in every course   |
| Week 5                                   | Suggested date to carry out second CAT in every course  |
| Week 7                                   | Suggested date to carry out third CAT in every course   |
| Week 8                                   | Suggested date to carry out post-test in all classes  |
| Week 8                                   | Submit report on semester's classroom assessment to the Student Learning Assessment Committee   |



**Summer 2011 Session III Courses (4 week session)**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| First week of summer III session (Week 1) | Submit, if necessary, course syllabi for classes being taught during this semester with new or revised measurable course objectives to the Chair of the Student Learning Assessment Committee |
| Week 2                                    | Suggested date to carry out pre-test in all classes   |
| Week 2                                    | Suggested date to carry out first CAT in every course   |
| Week 3                                    | Suggested date to carry out second CAT in every course  |
| Week 4                                    | Suggested date to carry out third CAT in every course   |
| Week 4                                    | Suggested date to carry out post-test in all classes  |
| Week 4                                    | Submit report on semester's classroom assessment to the Student Learning Assessment Committee   |

**Assessment Responsibilities of Lead Instructors  
in Arts and Sciences/Applied Sciences Programs  
for the 2010-2011 Academic Year\***

| Date | Action |
|------|--------|
|------|--------|

**Fall 2010**

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| First week of fall semester (Week 1) | Submit, if necessary, course syllabi for classes being taught during this academic cycle with new or revised measurable course objectives to the Chair of the Student Learning Assessment Committee |
| Week 1-15                            | Collect formative assessment data.  |
| Week 16                              | Collect summative assessment data.  |

**Spring 2011**

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Week 1-15                 | Collect formative assessment data.  |
| Week 7 of spring semester | Submit revisions of measurable program objectives, if necessary, to the Student Learning Assessment Committee |
| Week 16                   | Collect summative assessment data.  |

### Summer 2011

|              |                                    |
|--------------|------------------------------------|
| Week 1-4/1-8 | Collect formative assessment data. |
| Week 4/8     | Collect summative assessment data. |

\*Student Learning Assessment Program Reports for 2010-2011 academic cycle are due May, 2011.

**APPENDIX G**  
**HISTORY OF ASSESSMENT**





# EVOLUTION OF *INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL ASSESSMENT* AT MESALANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE 1995-2004

|   |                                |                                   |                                |  |           |           |           |           |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|   |                                |                                   |                                | New Set of Priorities, Goals, and Objectives   |           |           |           |           |
|   |                                |                                   |                                | Development of Institutional Assessment Priorities   |           |           |           |           |
|   |                                |                                   |                                | Assessment Day in fall is added  |           |           |           |           |
|   |                                |                                   |                                | CAAP is mandatory  |           |           |           |           |
|   |                                |                                   |                                | Student learning explicitly emphasized in College Mission and Goals statement  |           |           |           |           |
|   |                                |                                   |                                | College celebrates Assessment Day in spring semester   |           |           |           |           |
|   |                                |                                   |                                | Institutional policy that assessment budgets increase 10% per annum  |           |           |           |           |
|   |                                |                                   |                                | Assessment included as explicit part of Academic Program Review  |           |           |           |           |
|   |                                |                                   |                                | Director of Institutional Development oversees assessment process  |           |           |           |           |
|   |                                |                                   |                                | CAAP is institutional post-test  |           |           |           |           |
|   |                                |                                   |                                | COMPASS is institutional pre-test  |           |           |           |           |
|   |                                |                                   |                                | Student Learning Assessment Committee (originally Educational Outcomes/Assessment Committee) has line item budget                      |           |           |           |           |
|   |                                |                                   |                                | Compilation of data from ACT Student Opinion, Alumni and Withdrawing/Non-returning Student surveys for assessment purposes             |           |           |           |           |
|   |                                |                                   |                                | Results of industry standard exams are compiled  |           |           |           |           |
|   |                                |                                   |                                | Student Learning Assessment Committee (originally Educational Outcomes/Assessment Committee) oversees assessment as standing committee |           |           |           |           |
| Evolution of Developmental Plan for Student Outcomes Assessment Model |                                |                                   |                                | Integrated Student Learning Assessment Model (originally Student Outcomes Assessment Model) is implemented and revised annually        |           |           |           |           |
| Limited use of indirect measures of learning and industry standards   | Plan for integrated assessment | Phase-in of integrated assessment | Integrated assessment in place |  |           |           |           |           |
| 1995-1996   | 1996-1997                      | 1997-1998                         | 1998-1999                      | 1999-2000  | 2000-2001 | 2001-2002 | 2002-2003 | 2003-2004 |



## EVOLUTION OF *PROGRAM LEVEL ASSESSMENT* AT MESALANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE 1995-2004

|                                  |                                |  |           |           |           |           |           |   |  |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---|--|
|                                  |                                |  |           |           |           |           |           | Development of rubrics to assess general education                                    |  |
|                                  |                                |  |           |           |           |           |           | Review of program objectives and tests for critical thinking                          |  |
|                                  |                                |  |           |           |           |           |           | Program Assessment Outcomes Form includes feedback from previous cycles of Assessment |  |
|                                  |                                |  |           |           |           |           |           | Measurable program objectives for AA degrees published in College catalog             |  |
|                                  |                                |  |           |           |           |           |           | Test of critical thinking administered in 90% of programs                             |  |
|                                  |                                |  |           |           |           |           |           | Measurable program objectives assessed for 90% of programs                            |  |
|                                  |                                |  |           |           |           |           |           | Assessment included as explicit part of Academic Program Review                       |  |
|                                  |                                |  |           |           |           |           |           | Measurable program objectives printed in College catalog                              |  |
|                                  |                                |  |           |           |           |           |           | Test of critical thinking administered in 60% of programs                             |  |
|                                  |                                |  |           |           |           |           |           | Measurable program objectives assessed for 60% of programs                            |  |
|                                  |                                |  |           |           |           |           |           | Test of critical thinking developed for every program                                 |  |
|                                  |                                |  |           |           |           |           |           | Measurable course objectives for every degree/diploma/certificate program             |  |
| Industry standards - limited use | Plan for integrated assessment | Integrated assessment in every program |           |           |           |           |           |   |  |
| 1995-1996                        | 1996-1997                      | 1997-1998                              | 1998-1999 | 1999-2000 | 2000-2001 | 2001-2002 | 2002-2003 | 2003-2004   |  |



# EVOLUTION OF CLASSROOM LEVEL ASSESSMENT AT MESALANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE 1995-2004

|                              |  |  |   |  |           |           |           |           |
|------------------------------|--|--|---|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                              |  |  | Centralization of course assessments for faculty access                           |  |           |           |           |           |
|                              |  |  | New form to report changes in learning  |  |           |           |           |           |
|                              |  |  | Feedback from previous offerings is reported                                      |  |           |           |           |           |
|                              |  |  | Adjunct and new faculty have assessment mentor                                    |  |           |           |           |           |
|                              |  |  | Course objective assessment reported  |  |           |           |           |           |
|                              |  |  | Internships assessed by employer's evaluation and pre/post test                   |  |           |           |           |           |
|                              |  |  | Distance learning assessed by pre/post test and three journal reports             |  |           |           |           |           |
|                              |  |  | Pre-collegiate classes use TABE for pre/post test                                 |  |           |           |           |           |
|                              |  |  | Adjunct faculty carry out classroom assessment at same level as full-time faculty |  |           |           |           |           |
|                              |  | Full-time faculty use one pre/post test          | Full-time faculty use two pre/post tests  | Full-time faculty use pre/post tests in every course     |           |           |           |           |
|                              |  | Full-time faculty test CATs                      | Full-time faculty utilize three CATs in each course                               | Full-time faculty utilize one CAT per credit up to three |           |           |           |           |
|                              |  |  | Measurable course objectives in every College syllabus                            |  |           |           |           |           |
| Limited use of informal CATs | Plans for integrated assessment in classroom | Phase-in of integrated assessment in all courses | Integrated assessment in every course   |  |           |           |           |           |
| 1995-1996                    | 1996-1997                                    | 1997-1998  | 1998-1999   | 1999-2000  | 2000-2001 | 2001-2002 | 2002-2003 | 2003-2004 |



